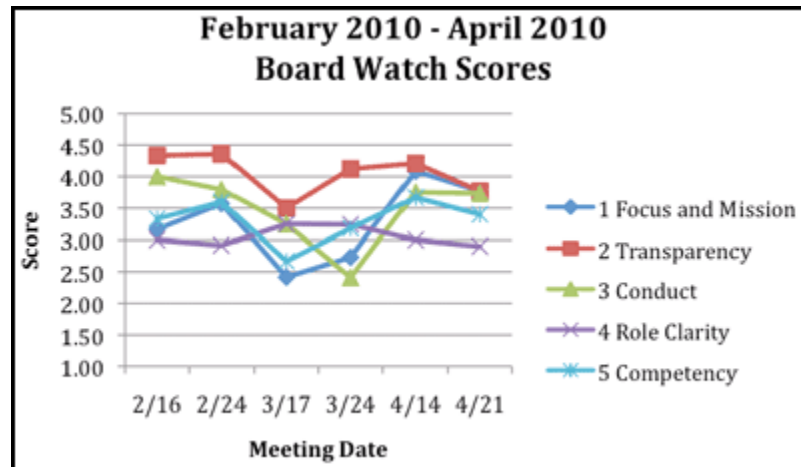


May 2010 Board Watch Report Card

The Pittsburgh Public School Board earned another B- for their governance for the months of February, March and April.

Some Things to Note in this Report Card:

- Scores for Focus and Mission moved up slightly from a C to a C+
- Scores for Competency moved down slightly from a B- to a C+
- During this report period, the scores varied from an A range in some areas to a D range in others.
- Scores overall have changed minimally from the first report card in March of 2009.



	March 2009	June 2009	Nov 2009	Feb 2010	May 2010
Focus and Mission	C+	C+	B-	C	C+
Transparency	B-	B+	B+	B+	B+
Conduct	B-	C+	B	B-	B-
Role Clarity	C+	C	C+	C+	C+
Competency	C+	C+	B-	B-	C+
Overall	C+	B-	B-	B-	B-

A+ Schools
Pittsburgh Community Schools for Public Education
For more information visit www.apluschools.org

All grades were calculated from the responses of informed citizens serving as independent observers and evaluators of school board governance.

Minimum Score	Grade
05.0	A+
-->4.67	A
--> 4.33	A-
--> 4.00	B+
-->3.67	B
--> 3.33	B-
--> 3.00	C+
--> 2.67	C
--> 2.33	C-
--> 2.00	D+
--> 1.67	D
--> 1.33	D-
--> 1.0	F

What is the Grading Scale?

Scores are calculated on a scale with a 1.0 being the lowest possible score (an F) and a 5.0 being the highest. (an A+). The grading scale listed to the left shows the minimum score required to earn each letter grade. So, for example, the lowest score the Board could earn and still get a B- would be a 3.33.

Here is a breakdown of the scores for each report card:

	March 09	June 09	November 09	February 10	May 10
Focus & Mission	3.28 C+	3.24 C+	3.59 B-	2.95 C	3.29 C+
Transparency	3.51 B-	4.02 B+	4.29 B+	4.14 B+	4.05 B+
Conduct	3.43 B-	3.25 C+	3.74 B	3.39 B-	3.49 B-
Role Clarity	3.10 C+	2.98 C	3.10 C+	3.00 C+	3.05 C+
Competency	3.28 C+	3.27 C+	3.39 B-	3.34 B-	3.31 C+
Overall	3.32 C+	3.35 B-	3.62 B-	3.36 B-	3.44 B-

What Changes Has the Board Made as a Result of Board Watch?

With each report card, A+ Schools has made recommendations for ways that the School Board could better function. Larger improvements in scores will require deeper, more structural changes to be made. In August of 2010, the Board will implement its commitment to conduct the Agenda Review meeting BEFORE the Public Hearing. We believe this change will give the public more opportunities to speak on relevant issues to the Board, as it will allow the Board more time to gather information and make informed decisions. Both of these have the potential for impacting the Board's scores for Competency.

Below is a list of all of the recommendations that A+ has made to date with an indicator to show when the Board has responded, if at all. As shown, much work is to be done in the area of creating a deliberate time and process for tracking and addressing new and existing policy issues. We advocate for this to be the next change the Board makes to advance the governance of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

KEY:

Implemented



Implemented somewhat or inconsistently



Not implemented

Recommendations Made by A+**Board's Response
and Date of Change**

Create a deliberate process and time for tracking and addressing new and existing policy issues.
Designate a specific time in the meeting structure to have more proactive discussions about strategy and planning and follow up on suggestions for policy reviews that arise from board members.



As a Board, raise the level of conversation to be about planning for how to achieve your goals rather than primarily reacting to specific expenditures, programs and other routine administrative details.



Support a proposed change to the PA School Code that clarifies the leadership and policy making role of the PPS Board



Reverse the order of the public hearing and the agenda review meeting to allow the public more opportunity to speak to relevant and timely issues being considered by the Board.

**August 2010**

Use public hearings as a way to exchange information with the public



Move all agenda review and legislative meetings into the larger board room enabling more of the public to observe deliberations first hand.



Install permanent signage from the main entrance to the board room



Station a security guard or greeter at the main entrance of the building



March 2010

Make entire agenda packet available online in advance of board meetings



November 2009